

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Held on Wednesday, 15 March 2000, immediately following the Closed Session,
in Room GM 407-1, SGW Campus

Attendance

Present: Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, *Chair*, Dr. Steven Appelbaum, Ms. Barbara Barclay, Ms. Joanne Beaudoin, Mr. Deepak Boojhawon, Dr. William Byers, Mr. Alex Carpini, Dr. June Chaikelson, Mrs. Marianne Donaldson, Dr. Terrill Fancott, Ms. Nicole Fauré, Mr. Leo Goldfarb, Mr. Rob Green, Mr. George Hanna, Dr. Christine Jourdan, Mr. Martin Kapustianyk, Mr. John Parisella, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Chris Piché, Mrs. Miriam Roland, Dr. Elizabeth Saccá, Ms. Sabrina Stea

Officers of the University: Prof. Marcel Danis, Mr. Charles Emond, Mr. Larry English, Dr. Jack Lightstone

Observer: Me Pierre Frégeau

Absent: Dr. Francesco Bellini, Mr. Alain Benedetti, Mr. Charles Cavell, Me Rita de Santis, Dr. Leonard Ellen, Mr. Ned Goodman, Mr. Peter Howlett, Mr. Paul Ivanier, Mr. Paul Kefalas, Mr. Ronald Lawless, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Mrs. Hazel Mah, Sister Eileen McIlwaine Ph.D., Mr. Jacques Ménard, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Richard Renaud, *Vice-Chair*, Mrs. Marianna Simeone, Mr. Jonathan Wener

Guests: Mr. Michael Di Grappa, *Executive Director, Physical Resources*, Dean Christopher Jackson, *Faculty of Fine Arts*, Mr. Michel C. Therrien, *Faculty of Fine Arts*

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES

BG-2000-3-D8	Recommendation from Senate regarding composition of Council of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration
BG-2000-3-D9	Excerpt from the Minutes of the Employee Benefits Committee
BG-2000-3-D10	Text of the Pension Plan for Employees of Concordia University
BG-2000-3-D11	Agreement between the Concordia Commerce Students' Association and Concordia University

1. **Call to Order**

The Open Session was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

1.1 **Chair's remarks**

Board Chair Lillian Vineberg pointed out that a revised schedule for spring convocation ceremonies had been distributed.

As Vice-Rector, Services, Charles Emond would soon be leaving the University, Mrs. Vineberg took the opportunity to recount some of Mr. Emond's many noteworthy accomplishments, and to express her appreciation for his enthusiasm and dedication to Concordia during his tenure here.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chaikelson, Fancott), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

- R2000-14 *THAT the Board of Governors express its appreciation and admiration for Mr. Charles Emond whose achievements in his three years at Concordia included the making of solid progress and good friendships; and that the Board wish Mr. Emond great success in all his future endeavours.*

Mr. Emond thanked everyone for their kind remarks. Mr. Emond observed that his experience at Concordia constituted his first exposure to an active governing body in the field of education, and, he said, the energetic and committed involvement of Board members in the University's operations had made a great impression on him. Mr. Emond thanked the Board Chair and the members for their support, and for having shared their considerable skills so generously; he extended special thanks to Mr. Jonathan Wener and the Real Estate Planning Committee. Mr. Emond said he looked forward to a long association with Concordia.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (16 February 2000)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Appelbaum, Boojhawon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

- R2000-15 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board, held on 15 December 1999, be approved.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Presentation by Christopher Jackson, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts

Mrs. Vineberg introduced Dean Jackson. She told the Board that Concordia's acclaimed Dean of Fine Arts had been nominated for a Juno award, and was recently granted an honorary degree by Laurentian University.

Dean Jackson introduced Mr. Michel Therrien, who had designed the video presentation which followed. With 2600 students, Dean Jackson said, Concordia's was the largest school of fine arts in Canada and applications exceeded admissions by a factor of four. The Dean noted that faculty members in both the visual and the performing arts were attracting major awards, despite severe resource and space constraints. Exciting recent

developments included creation of a Chair of the Institute for Studies in Canadian Art History, endowed by Stephen and Gail Jarislowsky; creation of the Daniel Langlois Foundation Chair in Digital Technologies; establishment of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema in new facilities at the Faubourg Tower; and the inauguration of the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on the Loyola Campus. Dean Jackson said the Faculty was also preparing to launch a program of annual awards, the Awards of Cultural Distinction, to recognize leadership in the fine arts community.

Dean Jackson acknowledged that information technologies presented serious challenges and enormous opportunities for artists and educators in the fine arts.

Dr. Terry Fancott, of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, said he was looking forward to a closer association between the two Faculties. He congratulated Dean Jackson for having attracted the acclaimed cultural philosopher Hervé Fischer as Chair of the Daniel Langlois Foundation Chair in Digital Technologies.

Mrs. Vineberg thanked Dean Jackson for his enlightening presentation.

4. Recommendation of Senate: Revision of the membership of the Council of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Byers, Beaudoin), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2000-16 *THAT, on the recommendation of Senate, the addition of two staff members as voting members of the Council of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration be approved; and*

THAT Official Document A-32, "Membership and Powers of the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies", be modified accordingly.

5. Ratification of new members of the Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations, and Secretary-General

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Donaldson, Chaikelson), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2000-17 *THAT the Board of Governors ratify the appointment of Ms. Kathleen Perry, nominated by the faculty members of the Faculty of Fine Arts, to the Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General.*

6. Recommendation of the Employee Benefits Committee: Revision of the Pension Plan text

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hanna, Carpini), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2000-18 *THAT the text of the Concordia University Employees Pension Plan be amended as set out in Board Document BG-2000-3-D10, and with the additional housekeeping modifications presented at this meeting, as follows:*

(i) Article 2.7 : the suite address will be removed to avoid having to amend the Plan if

the office moves; also, the postal code will be corrected to show H3H 1M8;

(ii) Article 5.1 : the word, "doctor", will be replaced by "physician";

(iii) Article 8.2 c): the words, "referred to in sub-paragraphs ii) of sub-section 8.1 above", will be replaced by "referred to in sub-paragraphs 8.1 a) ii, 8.1 b) ii, 8.1 c) 1) ii, and 8.1 c) 2) ii".

7. Approval of a memorandum of agreement between the University and the Concordia Commerce Students' Association (CACS)

A faculty member asked whether Article 19.1 would create any obligation for the University if the agreement was approved. The Article specified that the Dean of Students would "*continue discussions for a twelve month period with CACS*" with respect to tuition waivers for students serving on University bodies, and to increasing representation of students on the Board of Governors. Mr. Emond answered that the only commitment would be to continue discussions in good faith. The faculty member replied that it was not generally helpful to make commitments of that nature in formal agreements. Mr. Emond explained the students had insisted on it, as a condition of their signing.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Boojhawon, Piché), it was CARRIED with one abstention (Saccá):

R2000-19 *THAT the memorandum of agreement between Concordia University and the Concordia Commerce Students Association Inc., set out in Board Document BG-2000-3-D11, be ratified.*

8. Report of the Standing Committees

8.1 Benefits Committee (8 March 2000)

In the absence of Committee Chair Ron Lawless, Prof. Danis said there was nothing to report further to the revision of the Pension Plan text.

8.2 Budget Committee (7 March 2000)

Budget Committee Chair George Hanna reported that the Committee was informed that that budgeted deficit of \$2.7 million, for 1999-2000, had been revised upwards to \$3.8 million. The provincial budget announced on 14 March would likely affect our year-end results and budget planning for 2000-2001. Mr. Hanna said the Chief Financial Officer would address this in his report.

9. Reports on Concordia's compliance with certain legal obligations

9.1 Report on compliance with fiscal requirements

Chief Financial Officer Larry English reported that, upon review, he had concluded that appropriate procedures were being applied in the computation and remittance of taxes withheld from employees, employers' contributions, and GST and QST claims. Mr. English specified that the University had complied with its statutory obligations: (i) in

the area of employee and employer remittances under federal and provincial tax legislation, for the period from 27 November 1999 to 25 February 2000, inclusive; and (ii) as regarded the Federal Goods and Services Tax and the Québec Sales Tax, the University had claimed rebates (net of amounts payable) for the period from 1 November 1999 to 31 January 2000, inclusive.

Mr. English stated that the University's procedures had ensured full compliance with statutory fiscal obligations.

9.2 Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations

Vice-Rector, Services, Charles Emond's report constituted an executive summary of the 1999 annual report on Environmental Health and Safety.

The Vice-Rector, Services, said the annual report was intended to assist the senior administrators in meeting their responsibilities of due diligence, and to engage them in the process of building a stronger culture of environmental health and safety at Concordia. At Concordia, responsibility for environmental health and safety is a line responsibility which rests primarily with senior administrators, managers and instructors. Mr. Emond encouraged Governors to consult the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Home Page.

Mr. Emond suggested that health and safety was a growing concern. He noted that improvements initiated by EHS Director Susan Magor had produced cost savings, in CSST premiums for example, so that health and safety programs could now be seen as serious competitors for budgetary allocations. Recent accomplishments included the asbestos management plan, the emergency response plan and the laboratory safety manual. It was critical, Mr. Emond said, that Concordia continue to invest in improving conditions for health and safety.

10. Report of the Rector

Provost and Vice-Rector, Research, Jack Lightstone, reported that Dr. Lowy regretted his absence from the meeting, but was obliged to attend a conference of Canadian university presidents.

On behalf of the Rector, Dr. Lightstone reported as follows:

(i) The federal budget which was announced in February 2000 had some features favourable to universities, as follows. An additional \$900 million would be invested in the Canada Foundation for Innovation over the next five years. Although a \$2.5 billion supplement to the Canada Health and Social Transfer was announced, it was not clear how the supplement would help universities. There was also \$0.250 million in additional funding for the Canadian Institute of Health Research, formerly the Medical Research Council.

In 1999, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien had announced the federal government would finance the creation of 1,200 research chairs. With the announcement of \$360 million for the 21st Century Research Chairs, the number of chairs to be financed increased to 2,000. Dr. Lightstone said that while the criteria and conditions for creation of the Chairs had been clearly established, a political battle over these funds had emerged.

As well, \$160 million would be invested in genomic research over the next five years; \$700 million in environmental initiatives, and \$60 million in atmospheric and climate research.

The tax-exempt portion of students' scholarship income had been increased to \$5,000 annually, and increase of the basic personal exemption to \$8,000 would also benefit the student population. It was also possible that universities might benefit, once again, from financial assistance for capital improvements within the funding envelope for infrastructure.

(ii) It appeared that a portion of the provincial budget surplus would be spent to assist universities and university students. There would be a \$100 million non-recurring grant to help universities reduce their accumulated deficits. The government had explicitly stated that there would be no penalty for universities which, by responsible management, had succeeded in containing their deficits.

The Minister of Research, Science and Technology would invest \$120 million to augment research spending in the "*valorisation de recherche*" program.

(iii) On Monday evening, 20 March, the CBC news would be broadcast from a "town hall" meeting to be held at Concordia; the meeting would feature observations on the state of universities in Canada.

(iv) Dr. Lightstone gave notice that a recommendation from Senate would be presented to the Board in April. Senate would recommend deferring implementation of the planned increase in the administrative fee, in the hope that the government would make substantial budgetary injections in the year 2000.

(v) The inaugural lecture of the Miriam Aaron Roland Biennial Lectures in Psychology, a series financed by an endowment from Governor Miriam Roland, would be given by Sir Michael Rutter, a Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of London. The lecture would be held on 22 March.

(vi) Dr. Lightstone expressed his high regard for Mr. Emond's distinctive wisdom, humanity, and strength.

11. Reports of the Vice-Rectors

11.1 Having reported earlier for Dr. Lowy, Dr. Lightstone said there was nothing he wished to add in his capacity as Provost and Vice-Rector, Research.

11.2 Vice-Rector, Services, Charles Emond introduced his successor Mr. Michael Di Grappa, known to the Board as the Executive Director of Physical Resources. Mr. Emond characterized Mr. Di Grappa as "capable and caring", and wished him great success in his new position.

11.3 Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations, and Secretary-General Marcel Danis reported that Concordia's presentation to the National Assembly on 29 February 2000 had been very well received. The commissioners were impressed with the University's aggressive

academic planning under Dr. Lightstone's leadership, and with Mr. English's responsible stewardship of our fiscal affairs.

- 11.4 Chief Financial Officer Larry English reported on the provincial budget, released the previous day on 14 March. The province had announced a grant of about \$100 million for reduction of the universities' deficits. Realistically, Mr. English said, one had to account for an inflation rate of about 2%, reducing the value of the grant by about \$1.95 million.

Mr. English illustrated the likely impact of the grant for Concordia as follows: In 1998-99, the University had an accumulated deficit of \$36 million, which was reduced to \$25 million as a result of a one-time subsidy. After applying our share of the promised grant, the accumulated deficit at the end of the 1999-2000 fiscal year would be further reduced to \$18 million, which would put Concordia on good footing relative to other Quebec universities. Concordia's average debt-load per full-time equivalent student was \$1,490, about midway between École Polytechnique's level of \$3.00, and Université de Laval's, of \$3,758. Considering that the annual operating grant had been reduced by \$39 million, our finances were in excellent condition.

Mr. English reiterated that the government had explicitly stated the new funds would be distributed in such a way as to ensure there would be no penalty for those universities which had already taken measures to contain their deficits.

Mr. Rob Green, President of the Concordia Student Union, asked Mr. English to comment on the management of student association accounts. Problems, he said, had come to light within the past two months, including the erroneous deposit by the University of \$130,000 into the CSU account in 1998-99. Mr. Green said the full amount had recently been withdrawn from the association account without any consultation, effectively penalizing the current CSU for mistakes made in the previous year. Mr. English acknowledged there had been a problem.

Some Governors said Mr. Green's question was inappropriate and out of order. Mr. Green countered that it was reasonable to question an administrator, during his report to the Board, about matters in the purview of his portfolio. Mrs. Vineberg suggested that Mr. English meet with the student association executives to clarify and address the matter.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Piché, Fancott), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

- R2000-20 *THAT Chief Financial Officer Larry English meet with the President of each of the student associations to discuss their financial situations, and report on these discussions at the April meeting of the Board.*

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Any other business

Mr. Alex Carpini announced that Father Emmett Johns, a Loyola graduate and head of

the Montreal organization "*Dans la rue*", would be the guest speaker at the Loyola Club Dinner to be held on 2 May 2000. Mr. Carpini urged Governors to attend, saying the price of admission was low, to ensure that generous donations would be received by "*Dans la rue*", a highly respected organization which provides practical and moral support to homeless youth in Montreal.

14. Date of next meeting

Mrs. Vineberg reminded Governors that, unusually, the next regular meeting would be held at 7:30 a.m., on Wednesday, 19 April 2000, in the usual location, Room GM 407-1, on the SGW Campus.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Amely Jurgenziemk, Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate, for approval by the Board at its meeting of 19 April 2000